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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON, DC DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO
MANUFACTURE ECSTASY**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Devin Laster, age 23, of Washington, DC was sentenced today by the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. to serve a 41 month prison sentence for conspiracy to manufacture 3,4 Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly known as "ecstasy."

Laster was indicted on August 13, 2001 on drug conspiracy charges. On August 23, 2002, Laster plead guilty to Count One of the three count indictment for conspiracy to manufacture ecstasy. According to the statement of facts presented in support of Laster's guilty plea, upon receiving a call on July 28, 2001 from hotel staff, Montgomery County Police learned that Laster and co-defendant Vivianna Flores were using a hotel room in Gaithersburg, Maryland as a clandestine laboratory for producing ecstasy. DEA Special Agents and laboratory personnel also responded to the scene to identify the chemicals and ensure the safety of both seizing agents and hotel patrons and staff. Glass

vials, a plastic container and plates containing an intermediate product of ecstasy and other items used in the ecstasy manufacturing process were recovered from the co-defendants' hotel rooms.

Ms. Flores, Laster's co-defendant, also pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture ecstasy, and on December 18, 2002 she was sentenced to 33 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. During the period of supervised release Ms. Flores is to receive mental health and substance abuse counseling, and to perform 50 hours of community service.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Montgomery County Police and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Trusty.